

Remarks

In the Office Action, restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-15, 26-28, are drawn to identifying an origin source and destination source within a communications system, classified in class 370, subclass 349.
- II. Claims 16-25, 29 and 30, are drawn to multiple inputs having physical and logical definitions with respective identifiers in a communications environment, classified in class 370, subclass 255.

In response to this Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, Group II, claims 16-25, 29 and 30, for prosecution at this time. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reasons.

One of the requirements for a restriction to be proper is that there must be a burden on the Patent Office to examine the claims together. If there is no burden, then restriction, regardless of the contents of the claims, is not proper. (See MPEP §803) Applicants respectfully submit that that the subject matter recited in the claims of Group I is closely related to that recited in the claims of Group II. For example, independent claim 16 recites “mapping logic to map a physical identifier of the one or more physical identifiers to a logic identifier of the one or more logical identifiers, wherein the physical identifier is used by hardware of the communications environment to identify a resource associated with the physical identifier and the logical identifier is used by a program of the communications environment to identify the resource”. This language is very similar to that recited in claim 1 of Group I.

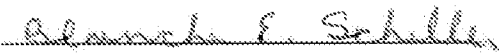
Further, the language of independent claim 29 is almost identical to that of independent claim 1. Independent claim 29 is a program product claim and claim 1 is the corresponding method claim. Because of the closeness of the subject matter, and the overlapping searches, applicants respectfully submit that there would be no or little additional burden on the Examiner in examining the claims of Group I, claims 1-15 and 26-

28, in one application with the provisionally elected claims of Group II, claims 16-25, 29 and 30.

Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding restriction requirement.

An action on the merits of all claims and a Notice of Allowance therefor are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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